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ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

THE OPENING OF THE NEW HALL

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

NOVEMBER 27, 1846

BY

WILLIAM BEILBY, M.D.

PRESIDENT.

EDINBURGH.—M.DCCC.XLVII.

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EXTRACT from Minute of Meeting of the ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS for election of Office-Bearers, for the ensuing
year, held on 3d December 1846.

“The President proposed that the thanks of the College should be
given to DR. BEILBY, the late President, for the Address delivered by
him at the opening of the Hall, and that he should be requested to
print it, which proposal was unanimously approved of by the College.”

Extracted by

KENNETH MACKENZIE,
Clerk to the College.



ADDRESS.

THE opening of our new Hall, as it forms an event in our history, seemed to me to present a fitting occasion to lay before you some account of the origin and history of the College of Physicians ; but in preparing for the execution of this design I soon found that though the materials for a history are scanty and unsatisfactory, even the slightest sketch would extend beyond the limits which could be allowed me at this time. Yet desirous to gratify a natural curiosity which has been often expressed by some of the Members of the Body, I determined not altogether to abandon the design, but to limit myself to a very cursory view of the *origin* of our corporation, some slight memorials of the various *local habitations* with which *the College* has been identified, and a mere glance at two or three of the objects that have engaged the chief attention of our predecessors at different periods.

The importance of combination for effecting purposes to which individual effort would be inadequate,

and the best means of organizing such combinations, are now so much better understood than formerly, that we wonder at some of the remnants of early days which have come down to us, so vicious in principle, and so faulty in constitution. Confederations for a common object were frequent in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries ; but the corporate organizations of that period were distinguished from those of the present day, not less in their principle than in their form. *Social improvement* of some kind is the characteristic aim of all those of *recent* origin. And so numerous are they now, that there is nothing affecting the sensible comfort, the intellectual advancement, or the moral elevation, of any portion of the community, that is not made the special concern of philanthropic associations. While on the other hand, those of a former period arose, for the most part, out of narrow and selfish feelings, and were chiefly designed to subserve individual or class interests. The Artizan Crafts, the Commercial Companies, and the Social Clubs, were all exemplifications of this, having no higher end in view than the pecuniary interests, or personal gratification, of those, of whom they were severally composed. Even of the highest schools of learning the greater part were, in their foundation, made subservient to the extension and consolidation of the influence of the priesthood.

The origin of the Colleges of Physicians, both of London and Edinburgh, if not decided exceptions to

this general remark, must be viewed as having been the offspring of a compound motive, in which a benevolent desire to promote a great social good, constituted at least a large, if not a chief element. And they were well adapted to the then social condition of the people among whom they had their rise. But, whatever degree of purity there might be in the motive whence they originated, their history shows that in the prosecution of the design, an exclusive and monopolizing feeling too soon began to display itself in both countries.

The necessity which existed in England for some such institution, is strongly depicted in the preamble of an Act of Parliament passed in the third year of the reign of Henry VIII., of which the following is an extract. “Forasmuch as the science and cunning of
 “Physick and Chirurgery, to the perfect knowledge
 “whereof be requisite both great learning and ripe
 “experience, is daily within this realm exercised by
 “a great multitude of ignorant persons, of whom the
 “greater part have no manner of insight in the same,
 “nor in any other kind of learning : some also can
 “(*know*) no letters on the book, so far forth that, com-
 “mon artificers, as smiths, weavers, and even women,
 “boldly and customably, take on them great cures,
 “and things of great difficulty ; in the which they
 “partly use sorcery and witchcraft, partly apply such
 “medicines unto the disease as be very noyous,
 “and nothing meet therefor, to the high displeasure

“ of God, great infamy to the Faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and destruction of many of the King’s liege people ; most especially of them that cannot discern the uncunning from the cunning.”*

In this extract you will observe there is a careful avoidance of all direct mention of a body of men, who at that time had a larger share of the medical practice in England than any others, namely the Monks ; among whom it was not in general the men of learning, but often the most illiterate, who undertook it. But the Monarch was not yet prepared to encounter the animosity and active opposition which any interference with the interests of this powerful body would have drawn upon him. The privilege of licensing to practise Physic was at this time entirely in the hands of the Ecclesiastics, being conferred on the two Universities and some of the Bishops in their respective dioceses. And this being a source of considerable wealth to them, it required prudence and courage on the part of the King and his Parliament to attempt any innovation. Political events however about this time changed the aspect of affairs, and removed some of the obstacles to reformations of various kinds, of medical practice among the rest.

The establishment of the London College of Physicians, which owed its origin to the exertions of the learned, accomplished, and devout Linacre, and to his

* Merrett’s Collection of Acts of Parliament, &c., relative to the London College of Physicians. London 1660.

influence with his all-powerful patron Cardinal Wolsey, produced an effect which soon became apparent, in raising the standard both of the character and acquirements of the Physicians ; and, at the same time, it formed a nucleus round which the learning and science of the country gathered : and among the many illustrious names which adorn the literary history of England in the latter half of the sixteenth century, no small proportion were Members of the Royal College of Physicians.

In these respects the southern part of the island was then greatly in advance of our own country. The Scottish history of the sixteenth century is indeed emblazoned with numerous names, which, for genius, learning, or moral worth, would have done honor to any age or any country. But of the Physicians or Surgeons of that period there are scarcely any memorials that can gratify our pride.* Yet the Scots now possessed three Universities ; and at the seat of one of these a Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons had been already incorporated.†

But nothing effectual was done in Scotland for enlarging the qualifications, improving the character, and elevating the *status* of the Medical Profession, until the early part of the seventeenth century ; at which period, according to the scanty documents of the day, it must have been in a state but too similar to that which had existed in England a century be-

* Note A.

† Note B.

fore. There were however, even at that period, a few physicians in Edinburgh, who lamented the degradation of the Profession, and mourned over the disgraceful state of medical practice which prevailed throughout the whole country. These honoured men combined their efforts for bringing about a reform. Taking advantage of a visit paid by the King (James I. of England) to his native dominions in 1617, they applied to him for a Patent of Incorporation, and certain powers, by the employment of which they hoped to be able to put an end to the great evils under which society was then suffering, in consequence of the very low state of the healing art in Scotland. His Majesty listened to their representations, seemed to feel and deplore the evils complained of, approved of the plan, and gave orders that it should forthwith be carried into effect.*

His wise and gracious purposes, however, were frustrated, chiefly through the influence of the Bishops, whose prescriptive privileges were thereby affected, and who suspected, whether justly or not, that the Physicians, as to their religious, or rather their ecclesiastical opinions, had too much sympathy with the popular party, which was not very favourable to episcopal rule. The corporation of Surgeons also, who were alarmed for their own privileges, very readily lent their co-operation, to defeat the design of the Physicians.

* Note C.

In 1630, the Physicians of Edinburgh renewed their attempt to obtain a Patent. The King (Charles I.) referred the matter to the consideration of the Privy Council, who ordered the petitioners “to give in some heads and articles for the erection of a College of Physicians,” which they accordingly did in 1633. From these articles* it appears, that not discouraged by their former want of success, the Physicians now demanded greater powers and more extended privileges, and that the proposed Institution should possess, not a local character and jurisdiction merely, but national; that in form and effect it should stand in the relation of a legislative council to the whole “Graduate Doctors” of the kingdom.

Delay and obstruction again arose from the same quarter as before: nor can we now feel any surprise at this, when we learn to what restrictions and degradation the other branches of the profession were to be subjected by the proposed Charter, which ordained, that no one was to be suffered to practise as a Surgeon or Apothecary, until he had been examined and approved by the College of Physicians; and even after being examined and approved, “that no Chirurgion within Edinburgh and bounds foresaid, take blood of any person, or undertake the cure of any aposteme, ulcer, fracture, or wounde, or any other thing requiring chirurgicall operatione, which may be deadlie or dangerous for the life of the diseased

* Note D.

“ or wounded person, (such as are the woundes of the
 “ head, stomach, diaphragme, bellie, bladder, lightes,
 “ and liver, or great vessels,) without the advise and
 “ counsell of one of the said societie and fellowship
 “ of the Physitians of Edinburgh, except in case of
 “ present necessity ; and that no deposition be given
 “ up to any Judge whatsoever, be chirurgians, anent
 “ any wounded person, or the quality of the wounde
 “ or woundes, but at the sighting, and under the hand
 “ and subscriptione and forme of the Doctors of the
 “ said Societie, together with the Masters in Chirur-
 “ gerie of the said town ; and the contraveners to be
 “ fined by the said College.”

But though there had been less opposition to the scheme by the Surgeons or other parties, the very unsettled state of public affairs, during the greater part of this reign, was very unpropitious to the completion of the design, which therefore was suffered to remain in abeyance till after the death of Charles.

The matter was again revived during the Protectorate of Cromwell, to whom a Memorial was presented by the Physicians. It was now affirmed, that
 “ such were the public abuses in maitters of medicine
 “ that frequent murders are committed universally in
 “ all parts of this kingdome, by quacks, women, gar-
 “ diners, and others grossly ignorant.”* The ignorance and dishonesty of the Apothecaries, the bad quality and exorbitant price† of their drugs, are also

* Note E.

† Note F.

complained of among the existing evils requiring to be corrected by the erection of a College of Physicians, which should be invested with adequate authority. Cromwell, after due inquiry, entered zealously into the project, and with his characteristic promptitude and energy, expedited the business. A patent was made out, conferring upon the College of Physicians extensive powers and privileges,*—as for instance, to “ practise and exercise the art of Chirurgery, (forasmuch as the science of Physick doth comprehend, include and containe in it the knowledge of Chirurgery, being a speciall part of the same and member thereof,) to censure and punish all persones who shall præsume to practise, exercise, or profess Physick, or give medicines, or ordaine physicall præscriptiones, in any part or place in Scotland, being not members of the said Colledge, or not being approved or licensed by the said President and Colledge under the common seall.” The patent was sent down to Edinburgh, and every thing seemed to be in the most prosperous train, and just on the eve of completion, “ Sed multa cadunt inter calicem supremaque labra.”

The Surgeons, who were acquiring more of the public confidence, and of course a larger share of medical practice, on being made acquainted with the provisions of the charter, became “ exceedingly clamorous,” it is said, thinking themselves injured, in

* Note G.

that they were debarred from practising medicine, while the Physicians were authorized to practise Surgery. The Universities were likewise stirred to oppose it, alleging that their privileges would be thereby infringed, and more especially the University of Aberdeen ; where, it is said, there was at that time “ an actual profession of medicine, many years erected, established, and stipended, with a learned Doctor in Medicine in the place, for some years orderly exercising and orderly teaching and professing medicine in all it's parts.”

A conference, therefore, was held at Dundee in 1657, between a deputation from the Physicians of Edinburgh and some representatives from Aberdeen University, in reference to the nature and extent of the powers to be conferred by the intended charter for the erection of a College of Physicians. In this conference* nearly all the points involving the separate interests of the parties were harmoniously arranged ; after which the claims of Surgery and Pharmacy, as may be supposed, engaged no small share of the time and consideration of the members ; and they being all physicians, there was little diversity of opinion among them as to the position and duties to be assigned to the professors of these branches. It was

* A narrative of this conference is given in a MS. volume, supposed to be by Dr. Purvis, a copy of which, transcribed by Dr. John Boswell, is now in the hands of Alexander Boswell, Esq., formerly Clerk to the College of Physicians. I am indebted to Dr. Poole for the account and extracts now given.

agreed on, that “ Surgeons should hereafter be confined to the treatment of cutaneous and external diseases, so long as these remained simply such, and “ did not recur.” But in all cases not coming under such interpretation, the assistance of one of the projected College of Physicians, or their licentiates, was to be called for. Further, it was expressly determined, “ That no Chyrurgeon or Apothecary should “ put hand to women in dangerous labours of child-bed, nor use instruments for the drawing forth of “ births, without the advice of the Physicians aforesaid, except in absolute necessity of inconveniency “ of time or place, where Physicians cannot be had ; “ in which cases they may do alone, so far as shall “ be found not to have been unwarrantable temerity “ or palpable ignorance, to manifest detriment of the “ party’s life.” In certain cases also, venesection was permitted to “ the inferior grade,” which, I presume, means the Apothecaries ; and in the excess of their liberality, a still further privilege was granted to both classes by this conclave of Physicians—the privilege, namely, of performing an operation, for the honour of which there is not much contest among the said parties in the present day. It was agreed, “ That it “ shall be leisome to Chyrurgeons or Apothecaries, “ in cases of necessity, when the distance of place, “ &c. will not admit the present help of a Physician, “ to administer a clyster till a physician may be had.”

The opposition of the Surgeons, backed as they

were on this as on all occasions by the Corporation of the city, (of which they then formed a constituent part,) and on the present occasion aided by the co-operation of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, succeeded in delaying, and the death of the Protector put a stop to, all further proceedings for the erection of a College of Physicians in Edinburgh ; and no direct steps were taken again to effect the object for above twenty years after this ; but some circumstances, having a direct bearing on that design, require to be mentioned.

The want of a School of Physic at home, drove all the young embryo physicians, of more enlarged mind and higher aspirings, to foreign universities, to increase their stock of knowledge. Among these were two young Scotchmen, Andrew Balfour and Robert Sibbald, both of respectable families, who after a good preparatory education went, the one to Italy and the other to Holland, for the acquisition of medical knowledge. They met afterwards in France ; and being both ardent students of Natural History, an intimacy took place, which, after their return to their native country, was renewed and strengthened ; and they united for mutual assistance in the pursuit of their favourite science, and for rendering it subservient to the advancement of their profession. With the view of promoting the study of botany, and the cultivation of medicinal plants, they agreed to take together a small bit of ground in the Abbey-yards—forming, as

I presume, a part of the Palace garden. As they proceeded, their views expanded, and they interested several others of the resident physicians in their design. A larger piece of ground, belonging to the Trinity Hospital—and since known by the name of the Physic-garden—was taken on lease ; and by the unwearied zeal and activity of Dr., afterwards Sir Andrew Balfour, and under the direction of James Sutherland, an enlightened and devoted botanist and horticulturist, it became the most renowned medicine garden in Great Britain. This was the origin of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, now so widely and so justly celebrated. It was Sir Andrew Balfour also, who first introduced into Scotland the dissection of the human body in 1670. His long residence abroad, and his extensive acquaintance among the learned men, naturalists and physicians, in the various countries of Europe, brought many such about him after he settled in Edinburgh. His varied and profound acquirements, his large and well-chosen library, his valuable museum, and his great liberality in giving the use of these, and in communicating knowledge, and whatever means of knowledge he possessed, made his house the resort of men of science and letters for many years.

At the house of Sir Robert Sibbald also, there were regular meetings held for discussing matters connected with literature and science. At these the project of a College of Physicians was kept alive, and

its desirableness often dwelt on. But nothing decisive was done towards it till 1680, when, in consequence of a disputed case before the Court of Session, it was remitted by the Lords of Session to the four principal physicians of Edinburgh to inquire and report whether the employments of Surgeon and Apothecary were *united* in other countries ; and whether it was expedient for the lieges that they should be united in one person in this country. These four gentlemen, being desirous to have the assistance of the other physicians of the city before returning an answer, a meeting of the whole took place ; and after having come to an agreement on the point at issue, (which was, that there was no such conjunction elsewhere, and that it was very prejudicial, both to the lieges and to the physicians,) they took advantage of their being met together to enliven each other's zeal for the establishment of a College, for the purpose of securing their privileges, and for defending them from the encroachments of the Surgeon-Apothecaries, which they declared to be "insupportable." Super-added, therefore, to every other and higher motive, self-interest now infused new vigour into the exertions which the Physicians put forth for the attainment of their object ; and now, notwithstanding the most strenuous opposition from the Surgeons, the Universities, and the city of Edinburgh, to which also the Archbishops and Bishops, and some of the Nobility even, lent their aid—and after long discus-

sion of the matter in the Privy Council—the Charter of Incorporation was obtained, and the great seal appended on St. Andrew's-day, 1681.

The powers and privileges which the Charter confers, the restrictions imposed, and the duties enjoined, it is not necessary now to recite ; but it is proper to remark, that in the Charters granted to the two Medical Corporations of Edinburgh, there had been such a degree of inconsistency, and such conflicting powers conferred, as gave rise to jealousies, and vexatious collisions between the two bodies, which were of long continuance, and often very acrimonious.

Immediately on receiving the Charter, our College entered with great zeal upon the fulfilment of the functions assigned to it.

The first meeting, of which there is any record, took place on the 18th of January 1682, at the house of Sir Robert Sibbald,—where, for some time, the meetings continued to be held. There were thirteen Fellows present. The publication of a Pharmacopœia engaged the first and chief attention of this meeting. Considerable progress had already been made in preparation for it, by Sir Andrew Balfour and a committee which had previously been voluntarily formed for that purpose.

I cannot relate, without a feeling of pride, that at the next meeting, the business which chiefly occupied the College was the care of the sick-poor,—for

which there does not appear to have been any public provision made before that time. Four of the Fellows were named to be Physicians for the poor, on whom they were to attend gratuitously ; and application was made to the Town Council to appoint a person to be Apothecary for the poor, with some pecuniary allowance for the same. This application, we must presume, was fruitless ; for, after a short time, a fund was raised by the Physicians themselves to supply the poor with medicines—of which I shall have occasion to speak immediately.

Another object on which the College showed itself intent from the beginning, was the formation of a Library, towards which they had already made such progress in 1683, that they appointed a Librarian and under-Librarian, the latter office being filled by the celebrated Dr. Pitcairn. The contributions of the Fellows and others to it must have been very liberal in the first years of its existence. This increase of the Library, together with the frequency of the meetings of the College in its infantine state, forced upon it the necessity of procuring an appropriate place of rendezvous, where the meetings might be held, and the Library deposited.

The loss of the Minutes of the College for ten or eleven years almost immediately after its establishment, renders it impossible now to ascertain what was the first place in the shape of a Hall, or substitute for a Hall, which it occupied ; but it must have

been humble enough : for in September 1695, the College held its meetings in the house of a Dr. Johnston, whose name does not occur in the list of Fellows, and who, for some cause which the Minutes do not explain, locked the door against them one day when a meeting was to have been held there, and refused to give them access to their apartments. Twelve months after this, there is a minute requiring Dr. William Stevenson to pay to the College the rent due by him for that part of the house occupied by the College, in which he lived. Another change was made in the following year, (1697) wherein there was paid for a year's rent of the apartment in which the meetings of the College were held, the sum of forty-two pounds Scots, (£3, 10s.) with a gratuity of half a dollar to the servant maid, for her trouble and service during that period.

This unsettled state continued until 1704, when a purchase was made from Sir James Mackenzie of his house and ground at the foot of the Fountain-close in the High-street, adjoining the family mansion of the Marquis of Tweeddale. The price paid was 3500 merks, (£194, 8s. 10d.) To this, in seven years afterwards, was added an adjoining property, which connected it with the then genteel and busy thoroughfare, the Cowgate, for which 2300 merks, (£127, 15s. 6d.) was given. From an old map of Edinburgh, it appears that the premises thus acquired by the College were more extensive than those

occupied by any individual, or by any other public body in the city. The ground was laid out in gardens and shrubbery, and was the envy of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, to several of whom the privilege of using the pleasure-grounds was granted as a favour. The whole of the buildings must have been in a very dilapidated state, for expensive repairs were found to be necessary on first taking possession, and the same head of expenditure is constantly recurring in the accounts of the Treasurer—and so early as 1711 a design was entertained of building a new Hall on the premises ; but the want of funds delayed the execution. At length, after nine years' thinking about it, 2900 merks were borrowed, and a new building was erected.

In this, as in the old building, a portion was set apart for the reception of the sick-poor, who were encouraged to resort thither for advice and medicine. The fund for the supply of the latter was raised, as before mentioned, chiefly by voluntary subscriptions among the Fellows at first, and afterwards maintained, in part at least, by a fixed contribution from each Fellow at his admission, together with the fines incurred for non-attendance. This benevolent plan was carried on with little interruption for many years, namely till 1742, and out of it may be said to have originated an Institution that has been the source of health and blessing to countless multitudes for 120 years past. The honour of the design, the

completion, and the establishment of the Royal Infirmary, belongs to the Royal College of Physicians, by whose exertions nearly the whole of the funds were raised for the purchase of a suitable building ; and the Fellows bound themselves to give gratuitous attendance upon the patients in it so long as it might be necessary.* The *Medical* duties of that Institution accordingly have, from its first opening in 1729, with scarcely any exceptions, been fulfilled by the Fellows of this College, and for the most part, as at the present time, gratuitously. The building first occupied as an Hospital, was soon found to be quite insufficient, and the College was called upon to make new efforts and additional contributions for the erection of a more spacious edifice. The call was responded to with promptitude and liberality ; and the foundation of the present Infirmary was laid in 1738, with great ceremony, in which our College took a prominent part. It was opened in 1741. At first the Hospital was attended by all the resident ordinary Fellows, two at a time, in rotation—a plan which was found to be attended with much inconvenience and many disadvantages ; and in 1751, the Managers requested that a change might be made in this respect—to which the College assenting, two Physicians were appointed permanently to divide the medical duties between them.

But while asserting the claims of the College of

* Note H.

Physicians in regard to the erection and *establishment* of the Royal Infirmary, it would be unjust to the memory of the first Monro to omit to mention, that the *complete efficiency* of that Institution was mainly to be attributed to the noble independence of mind, the enlightened humanity, the ardent zeal, and the untiring perseverance of that truly great man.* To him also, more than to any other person, is Edinburgh indebted for the commencement and organization of its Medical School. Nor must it be forgotten, as a further tribute to the same honoured name, that with him originated the collection and publication of a series of “Medical Essays and Observations,” (1731 to 1733,) which still retains the high estimation of the medical public, and was the forerunner of the many Medical periodicals of the English press,—those valuable repositories of reflection and experience, which have since contributed so largely both of the science and art of Medicine.

But we must not pass over this period without noticing an event which has been regarded as of some importance in the history of our College. The University of Edinburgh—hitherto called the Academy of King James—possessed the power of granting academical degrees. In 1705, it was applied to by a student, to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Physic. Not having any efficient Professor in this department,† and therefore no means of conducting

* Note H.

† Note I.

an examination in it, instead of doing as some other learned bodies have since done, conferring the degree without any trial of qualification, the University of Edinburgh applied to the College of Physicians to examine the young candidate. The request was complied with, and a series of examinations were held, very similar to those which the College had been in the practice of, before granting license to the graduates of foreign Universities, and which seem to have furnished a model for the University examinations for the degree of M.D. for one hundred years after they began. This practice of examination for degrees by the College of Physicians was continued for twenty years,—at first by the Fellows alone, but afterwards in conjunction with Dr. James Crawford, who in 1713 was made Professor of Physic and Chemistry by the Patrons of the University, they having, previous to his appointment, requested the opinion and advice of the College of Physicians as to his qualifications. Dr. Crawford continued sole Professor and teacher of Medicine for seven years. In 1720, Alexander Monro, *primus*, proposing to teach anatomy, applied to the College of Physicians for what was at that time an indispensable prerequisite, the formal sanction of its “Testimonium;” which being granted, he received a commission from the Town Council to teach; and in this year commenced the first *regular course* of Anatomical Lectures and De-

monstrations ever delivered in this city.* Other teachers in Medicine and the collateral sciences, now came forward, all of whom were members of the College of Physicians, and all received the sanction of its approval, before they were considered qualified to undertake their several duties. These persons were Drs. Porterfield, Rutherford, Sinclair, Plummer, and Innes, the four last of whom joined to purchase a house contiguous to the College-garden, for a Chemical Laboratory,—where, or in their own houses, they seem to have taught for some time, probably for want of accommodation within the walls of the University. Commissions from the Town Council were given to them as Professors of Medicine and Chemistry, with full powers to profess and teach Medicine in *all* its branches *in the College*, with power also to examine candidates, and to do every thing necessary for the graduation of Doctors of Medicine. A Medical School being now founded, the services of the College of Physicians were no longer necessary for examination, and were not again demanded.†

During the period to which we are now referring, and for many years after, the College of Physicians appears to have been very much before the public ; and that in a manner, and under circumstances, fitted to attract the favorable regards of the commu-

* Note K.

† Note L.

nity towards it ; for when any question at all connected with the public health was stirred, recourse was had to the College for instruction and advice. In 1721, there was some dread of the introduction of the plague into the city ; on which occasion a memorial from the Town Council was presented to the College of Physicians, requesting advice how to act in the view of the impending evil. The document is curious, as showing the opinions and feelings then prevailing in regard to this awful scourge ; and not less curious, and for the most part very judicious, are the directions given by the College—which, relating as they do almost entirely to the medical police of the city, expose the crowded, filthy, and disgraceful state it was then in, and which had made it a proverb and a by-word to our southern neighbours, presenting a very striking contrast to its present almost unequalled cleanliness.*

At another time (1756) the College was applied to by the Authorities, (in consequence of the very insufficient supply of *water* obtained in the city,) to give its opinion and advice relative to the qualities and suitableness of the various springs and streams in the neighbourhood. At a subsequent period (1781) it was consulted by the Magistrates as to the effect upon the health of the city of the Slaughter-houses being continued in the midst of it,—on which occasion a strong opinion was expressed by the College

* Note M.

as to the necessity of their removal, and an Act of Parliament was in consequence obtained for the purpose ; but the endeavour to raise by subscription the money for indemnifying the butchers failed, and the nuisance has continued until now, that the revolutionizing effect of railways is sweeping it away.

In these instances we see the important advantages which may be, and should be, derived by the community from having an association of some of the more distinguished Physicians and men of science, to whom application may be made for advice and assistance in every thing regarding the public health. Many such occasions have occurred, in all which the College of Physicians have shown their readiness to obey, if they had not already anticipated, the call of their fellow-citizens.

The purifying the profession itself from the debasing elements with which it had hitherto been alloyed, was a chief end and proper duty of the College of Physicians, which they were pledged to pursue. To accomplish it, required prudence and determination ; for the evils were great and of long continuance, and fortified by powerful sanction. The work of reformation was commenced by visiting the Apothecaries' shops, and summoning unlicensed practitioners of medicine, requiring them either to abandon their illegal practice, or to seek for the license of the College—in order to obtain which it was required that the parties should undergo an examination in pre-

sence of the *whole* College. In some cases the authority of the College was resisted, and appeal was made to the civil courts. In every such case the authority of the College was recognized and confirmed.

Not only, however, was the College vigilant to prevent the intrusion and usurpations of unlicensed practitioners, but it was not less tenacious as to any supposed compromise of its dignity by any of its own Fellows engaging in certain pursuits and employments which, though formerly considered as belonging appropriately to the Physicians, were now assigned to the Surgeons and Apothecaries. All the operations of Surgery and Midwifery were absolutely interdicted : the most stringent laws were framed to prevent Physicians engaging in them ;—and the College manifested, through a long course of years, the utmost tenaciousness on this point, and the most resolute determination to maintain its uncontaminated *purity* in this respect.

But about the middle of the last century, doubts began to be expressed by some of the Members as to the soundness of the principles on which it had latterly been acting. Several persons had then recently joined the College, who, from education and habits, were not likely to sympathize in the feelings whence such laws had originated. Cullen and the first Monro had not been educated and trained with a view to what we now call consulting practice, and did not participate in the prejudices which in that day were

too commonly engendered in the minds of those who were so trained. These two distinguished men joined the College in the year 1756, and in a few years after we find them uniting with several others, who were still more recent entrants, to oppose the illiberal spirit and mistaken views which then prevailed. A struggle was commenced, in which they took a leading part ; and it was carried on for many years with great keenness. The law, excluding what were considered the irregular practitioners, was re-enacted six or seven times over, without ever having been, formally at least, repealed,—which can only be accounted for on the supposition that the infractions of the law were very frequent, and the attempts to procure its repeal continually renewed. The names of the men by whom these persevering attempts were made and supported, deserve to be recorded : These were, besides Dr. Monro, *primus*, and Dr. Cullen, Dr. Thomas Young, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. John Gregory, Dr. Joseph Black, and Dr. James Hay. The Papers in which they put forth their “ protest,” and vindicated their opinions, are documents of great value, evincing enlightened and comprehensive views, and embodying sound, clearly stated, and irrefragable arguments. The contest was steadily maintained, under the guidance, apparently, of Dr. Cullen, until at length the obnoxious law was rescinded. But too much of the “ old leaven ” still remained in the College, and the law was again re-enacted after a few months. The

question was then laid to rest, or nearly so, for many years ; but, in 1788, Dr. Hay, one of the protesters, being now President, and the College having removed from their old Hall in the Cowgate, and breathing the freer, purer atmosphere of an improved locality, were, whether as a consequence of the change or not, inspired with larger, loftier sentiments ; and now, no opposition is recorded to have been made to the repeal of the restrictions which had been imposed upon the practice of its Members.

Immediately after which, and on the motion of Dr. Cullen, the late learned, accomplished, and elegant Dr. Charles Stuart, who had been debarred by the operation of the law in question, was admitted a Fellow ; and Dr. Alexander Hamilton, the father of the late Professor of Midwifery, was admitted at the same time.

But I have somewhat transgressed the chronological order, and must retrace my steps so far as to give some account of the final abandonment of the ancient place of congress, and the transfer of the seat of council to that which we have now so recently quitted.

Notwithstanding all the sums that had been expended in the erection of a *new* building, and in the repair of the *old*, the former seems to have been slight and insufficient, and the latter was in so dilapidated a condition, that in 1760 it was resolved to build a new Hall upon the premises then held by the

College, and a plan was obtained and approved, the execution of which was to cost £800, a sum that was declared to be within the means of the College ; but before commencing the work, it was determined to submit the design to the judgment of Mr. Adam, the King's Architect, who, after inspecting it, gave it as his opinion that it was unsuitable, and quite unworthy of the Body for whom it was intended ;—and, with great liberality, Mr. Adam gave, spontaneously and gratuitously, a plan of his own, the execution of which was estimated to cost between £5000 and £6000, exclusive of the statues, bustos, and bas-reliefs, which he recommended as appropriate and almost necessary. This plan, after being handed about and admired, was laid aside as unsuitable to the finances of the College.

At length, however, such was the state of the College buildings, that the books were suffering great injury, and it became absolutely necessary to remove them without further delay. Application was made to the Managers of the Royal Infirmary for permission to deposit the Library in a spare apartment of that building, and also for liberty to hold the meetings of the College in the Manager's Board-room. These requests were readily granted, and the privilege was continued to the College for fifteen years. The Library had now become so extensive, that it was insured for £600.

By this time a design had been formed, and some

progress had already been made, towards laying out a New Town in the northern suburbs of the city. To this situation the eyes of the College were turned, as being greatly preferable to that they had hitherto occupied. A petition was presented to the Town Council for a site, and the negotiation was nearly concluded for the lot of ground on which the Register Office now stands, for which the College was to have paid a feu of eight pounds sterling per annum ; but Mr. Adam, the architect who was employed by Government to give a design for the Register Office, perceiving how peculiarly desirable that situation was for the noble building he intended to erect, had influence enough to prevent the consummation of the transaction, and to secure that site for himself.

The Town Council then agreed to give a site just where the Scott Monument has been lately erected : but this was deemed by the College ineligible. A choice of two sites was next offered,—the one in George-square and the other the one which was finally fixed upon, and which was destined to receive in succession two buildings of more pure and refined taste, perhaps, than any others in the city.

The premises in Fountain-close were sold in 1770 for £800, being intended for the site of an Episcopal chapel. The Hall in George-street was not commenced till 1776, when the foundation-stone was laid by Dr. Cullen, the President. About £4800 were expended upon it. This, notwithstanding all the ef-

forts made to procure subscriptions, plunged the College into debt to the extent of nearly £1000, for which sum the Hall was immediately mortgaged. Some of the Fellows were now so despondent about the state of the treasury, that before ever the College had entered upon the occupation of it, a proposal was brought forward to sell the building. A negotiation was entered into with a party, for the purpose of its being converted into Assembly Rooms,—the stream of fashion having by this time begun to flow towards the New Town, and some of the Lady Directresses of the Edinburgh “Almack’s” having become dissatisfied with their dingy apartments in Bell’s-wynd. The sale was agreed upon, the price to be paid was £3750 ; missives were actually passed ; and the College, by a majority, had sanctioned the act of their committee,—when, most fortunately, it was saved from the indelible disgrace into which it was plunging, by some of the Lady Directresses changing their minds, when they began to reflect on the remoteness of the locality from the residences of the greater part of them, and the danger they might incur of an overturn of their chairs while crossing the newly erected bridge over the North Loch, in the dark and stormy nights of winter. This “second thought” came fortunately in aid of a resolution, which had already been formed by some of the objecting Fellows, to endeavour to get the transaction rescinded by an appeal to the law. The consequence

was, that the College gave up the intention of selling the building, and all trace of the proceedings relative to it was removed from the Minutes. And it was now resolved to take possession of the new Hall without farther delay, submitting to whatever inconvenience might be sustained from the yet unfinished state of the interior. And the College assembled in it for the first time on the 7th of August 1781, just one hundred years after being first incorporated.

The finances of the College did not permit of the completion of the original design for many years. Much remained to be done both within and without, which was by very slow degrees accomplished ; indeed, the painting and fitting up of the great saloon was only completed about five or six years before the Hall was finally abandoned ; before which time there had already been presented to the College a strong inducement to alienate it. The temptation was resisted ; but the discussions which took place in reference to it, had served to fix the attention of many of the Fellows, on what indeed every one had felt, and many had complained of, the unsuitableness and discomfort of the internal arrangements ; and a wish was very commonly expressed, by those especially who made most use of it, that we could obtain a more commodious edifice, though it were of less imposing exterior.

When, therefore, after a few more years of patient endurance, a favourable opportunity again presented

itself for the attainment of this object, it was found that the partialities of the older Fellows were not so insuperable as on the former occasion, and it was resolved to accept an offer that was made in 1843, which, though not equal to that which had been formerly made, was yet deemed more than sufficient to enable the College to erect a new Hall, in which the internal construction should be made a matter of primary consideration. To procure a convenient site in a central part of our now crowded city was not easy ; but in this, you will agree with me in thinking, we have been very successful, though from want of lateral space a considerable restraint has been placed upon the genius and taste of our accomplished architect. This, however, has afforded him an opportunity of displaying the great resources of his skill, in triumphing over even such a difficulty, and we have every reason to be more than satisfied with the result. So much, then, for the history of the Halls.

Having already trespassed so largely on your time and attention, I can barely allude to two or three of the principal topics that have engaged the attention of the College during the period of our occupying our late Hall.

To purge the list of the *Materia Medica*, and to secure accuracy and uniformity of the pharmaceutical preparations, were, as already mentioned, objects that forced themselves, as of primary necessity, upon the consideration of our predecessors at the very first for-

mation of the College, when the mass of materials out of which they had to make a selection was indeed ‘*rudis, indigestaque moles.*’ For though the London College had compiled a Pharmacopeia about eighty years before the erection of this College, and had within that time published six if not seven editions, little had been done in the way of selection or curtailment, before the issuing of the Edinburgh Pharmacopeia in 1699, which still contained nearly nine hundred articles of the *Materia Medica*; being almost three times the number contained in our last edition, although the intervening 140 years have made us acquainted with the medicinal properties of innumerable articles before unknown. In this first Edinburgh Pharmacopeia we see strong proofs how much of prejudice and superstition still lingered even in the master minds of the age; for to nothing else can we ascribe the retention of such articles as *Bufo exsiccatus*, *Album Græcum*, under which refined designation even an Oxford Wrangler might fail to recognise *dog’s dung*, *Stercus humanum*; and no less than a dozen other varieties from the same department of animal production; *Cranium hominis violentâ morte extincti*, &c., &c. And then, of the received and approved pharmaceutical compounds there are some which contain from forty to seventy articles in each. Yet, notwithstanding these somewhat ludicrous relics of a former state, even this first edition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopeia was an improvement upon any that had

previously existed, in these countries at least. And this superiority was fully maintained in subsequent editions. It was not till the year 1745 that the London College ventured, in imitation of her younger sister's example, to disregard the prejudices which stood in the way of the improvement of its Pharmacopeia.

The revision of the successive editions of our Pharmacopeia, and the alterations and improvements which the progress of knowledge has demanded, have continued to engage the anxious consideration of the College ; and to the perfecting of this great national work the labours of some of the ablest men of their day have been devoted, so that we do not arrogate too much in asserting, that up to the present time it has been second to none of its contemporaries. To the last edition, in an especial manner, the College feels that it may refer with some degree of pride. The extent and value of the alterations made in it can be fully appreciated by those only who have given much consideration to them. The daring innovations on which we have ventured in the nomenclature, and still more in sending it forth in a form and dress that even the juvenile compounders in our apothecaries' shops cannot mistake, have met with such a degree of approbation, as shows that we have rightly interpreted the requirement of the times, and may hope that while we thereby dispel somewhat of the mystery of Physic, we may also save some valuable lives.

It would be doing equal violence to my own feelings, and injustice to a most meritorious individual, were I to omit to mention, how much the College, and the Profession, are indebted for these improvements to the present able and eminent Professor of *Materia Medica* in our University ; to whose enlightened zeal and persevering labours we also owe the commencement, and the progress already made, in the formation of a museum of *Materia Medica* ; for the indefinite enlargement and effective display of which we now possess ample and suitable accommodation.

Another of the cherished objects of the College has been the formation of a good medical library, select rather than extensive. This has continued to engage the attention of the College through all its changes ; and it has received large additions both by gift and purchase ; and it cannot fail to gratify all our Fellows to see our Library now so suitably deposited, so well arranged, and its contents so much more accessible than heretofore. Allow me to avail myself of this opportunity to suggest to my fellow-members the great desirableness that our Library should possess as complete a history of Medicine as possible ; and that every thing is valuable in this view, which throws light on the state of medical knowledge, opinion, and practice, at various periods and in various countries. Many such works perhaps there are in our private libraries, which in themselves, and in their present isolated state, are of little value, and yet would

occupy an important place in a series, illustrating the state of the healing art in any particular age or country. I would also take the liberty of reminding my brethren that the Library ought to possess all the productions of its own members.

Time forbids me to allude to more than one other of the topics which have engaged the deliberation of the College of late years, but this is the most important of all ; namely, the present condition of the Profession itself in relation to its proper ends, and the means of its improvement.

I believe it is not too much to assert that there never was a period in the history of the medical profession, when so large a proportion of its cultivators were thoroughly qualified for their duties, and when so many were animated by the purest and most honourable motives in the performance of them. It is *these* men that feel most sensibly, and lament most deeply, the evils inflicted upon society, by the intrusion of incompetent and dishonest persons, into situations, wherein life, health, and happiness are intrusted to them, and in which the loss of one or all of these may be the effect of their ignorance and malpractices.

Credulity and imposture there have been in every age, uniformly holding a pretty steady ratio to each other ; ignorant and unprincipled pretenders have always found weak and ignorant dupes to acknowledge their pretensions. Legal interposition and penal visitation were the only means thought of formerly for the

correction of such evils. These have been found, however, quite insufficient for the purpose. Even the powers and honours of privileged learned bodies have been prostituted in numerous instances in the most disgraceful manner. And there appears in the present state of things to be no possibility of preventing this.

The only effectual remedy for these evils will be found in the adoption of such measures as shall secure that every one who undertakes the duties of the profession shall not only be thoroughly acquainted with the structure and economy of the human body in its normal condition ; the signs of, and changes produced by, every deviation from that condition ; and the modes of preventing, correcting, or removing these ; but shall also be well instructed in the constitution and physiology of the mental and moral nature of man ; and able to take a just and comprehensive view of the mutual relations of the outer and inner man, and their influence upon each other. It is essential also at the same time, that the training shall be such as is fitted to enlarge the mind and liberalize the feelings ; to prevent or extinguish that presumptuous self-confidence which is the almost invariable concomitant of ‘a little learning,’ and to produce a deep feeling of the solemn responsibility that is incurred in undertaking the active duties of our profession.

I cannot thus refer to these high duties and the re-

quisite qualifications for their right fulfilment, without having vividly presented to my mind one—so recently, alas, withdrawn from among us!—who, equally in his writings and by his example, instructed us in the cultivation and regulation of those intellectual and moral powers, the best exercise of which is demanded by the high functions of our profession.

I take this opportunity, in the name of the College of Physicians to say, that the College accepts with pleasure and gratitude, the highly valued gift just received from the Committee appointed two years ago for procuring a memorial of our lamented associate, Dr. Abercrombie. This beautiful bust, now for the first time uncovered, must always be admired as *a work of art*, and as such alone is worthy of a niche in even the most select Gallery in the empire; but with us it has a still higher value, as a striking memorial of one who was known to almost all of us, was beloved by many of us, and respected by all of us; and whose memory will long continue to be cherished among us for what he was and what he did.

Within the last forty years the subject of medical education and professional organization have been repeatedly under the consideration of the College, and have been discussed in their various bearings with an earnestness yet calmness befitting their importance; and I cannot but congratulate the two bodies I have now the honour to address, on the perfect harmony of feeling and unity of purpose which have animated

the two Colleges in regard to these objects, auguring well, as it does, for final triumph over the difficulties which yet stand in the way of the complete accomplishment of our desires.

A retrospect of the past history of the College presents, as we have seen, no very agreeable view of the state and feelings of the different parts of the profession relatively to each other. This, in regard to a very remote period, could not be wondered at. At the time of the foundation of the College, the pure Surgeon was a handicraftsman, and the Apothecary little better than an herbalist ; while, imperfect as was the education of the Physician, it was much superior to that which the other classes then received, and continued to be so for a long time ; and though himself declining to perform even the slightest operation, the Physician was the only acknowledged authority for its performance.

So long as the education of the different classes continued to differ both in kind and degree, this arrangement was submitted to ; but when the Surgeon extended the boundary of his knowledge, the state of helpless subordination was endured with less patience ; and in proportion as the education of the surgeon was improved, he became more emboldened to assert his independence, and at length to trench upon what had been thought to be the exclusive province of the Physician ; and now, the distinction, in the great majority of cases, is little more than nominal—the Physician

in many instances being called upon to perform certain surgical operations—especially in the remoter parts of the country,—and the Surgeon in every case fulfilling the duties which were formerly thought to belong only to the Physician.

The struggle for equality on the one side, and supremacy on the other, was a constant source of bitter hostility during a long course of years, which was greatly increased by the mutual jealousies fomented by the co-ordinate and incompatible powers and privileges conferred on the two medical corporations. They were thus effectually prevented from combining for common objects, and the public good. But it is a source of unmingled satisfaction to be able to contrast with this deplorable state, the present friendly relation subsisting between the two bodies.

Larger and juster views have brought into closer approximation, those who had heretofore been thought to have separate and incompatible interests. And the time is obviously hastening on, when, under the influence of a still higher education throughout all classes of the profession, the marked distinction shall no longer be, between the Physician and the Surgeon, or the Accoucheur, but between what may be termed the '*realists*' and the '*nominalists*,' that is, those who shall be *duly recognised* as really possessing the qualifications which fit them for the useful and honourable exercise of their profession, and those whose only claim consists in a presumptuous pretension and un-

deserved title. For my own part, I look forward, not only with ardent desire, but with sanguine anticipation, to the time when community of aim, and identity of feeling, shall overcome all the obstacles that now stand in the way of a perfect union and *formal incorporation* of the high-minded and thoroughly trained of every branch of the profession ; and when the undivided efforts of this mighty phalanx shall be directed with resistless force against every thing and every body that would impair the usefulness or tarnish the glory of our noble profession.

I regard it as no very doubtful omen of the certain, and not very remote, fulfilment of these pleasing anticipations, that each of the medical corporations, when disposed to indulge in a joyous festivity on the occasion of the successful accomplishment of a long-desired object, regards it as an essential element of the enjoyment, that it shall be shared by their brethren of the other College. The Physicians participated largely in the gratification felt by the College of Surgeons, as they partook of their elegant hospitality, when the noble Hall in Nicolson-square, reared with so much spirit, taste, and liberality, was opened.

The College of Physicians now gives a cordial welcome to the College of Surgeons, and to all our other honoured guests, and indulges the hope, that this our first, may not be our last meeting in this place, whether, as on the present occasion, for festive enjoyment, or for the more serious occupation of combining

in counsel, to advance the science of Medicine, or for promoting in any other way the proper end of Medicine,—the physical improvement and welfare of mankind.

NOTES.

NOTE A.—p. 7.

FOR the following catalogue of Scotchmen who lived before the 17th century, and are said to have attained to eminence in the healing art, with the titles of some of their writings, I am indebted to a MS. by Dr. Poole. They are taken from “Mathie’s Conspectus Historiæ Medicorum Chronologicus.”

Bernhardus de Gordonio, Professor Monspeliensis, appellatus “Excellentissimus Medicinæ Monarcha,” A.D. 1305.

Lilium Medicinæ, Nap. 1480.

Opera Medica, 8vo, Ludg. 1542.

Elias Forbes, Med. Doc. Profr. Philosæ. Glascuæ, 1457.

Gul^s. Bailzie, M.D. Profr. Philosæ. Bononiæ, 1484.

Gul^s. Seton, Chirurgus, 1495.

Petrus Ross, Med. Doc., clarus, 1500.

Wilhelmus Manderston, M.D., clarus, 1520.

Alexander Kynsoram, M.D. et Pr. in Universitate Hafniensi, 1513.

Duncanus Liddel, M.D., Prof. Astronomiæ Helmstadii, 1596.

Ars Medica, Hamb. 1607.

Compendium Universæ Medicinæ,
Lugd. 1624.

De Febribus.

De Peste, Variolis, et Morbillis.

Petrus Lowe, Chiræ. Doctor.

On the whole Arte of Chirurgery, 1612.

Lowe was Surgeon successively to Henry IV. of France and James I. of England. He also published a work entitled, “The Poor Man’s Guide,” and “An Easy, Certain, and Perfect Method to cure and prevent the Spanish Sickness,” London, 1596.

NOTE B.—p. 7.

Extract from the Charter granted by James VI. in 1599, to the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

“From the grit abuses quhilk hes bene comitted in time bygane, and zit daylie continueis be ignorant, unskillit, and unlernit personis, quha, under the collour of chirurgians, abuis the peple to thair plesuir, passing away but (*without*) tryel or punishmente, and thairby destroyis infinite number of our subjectis, quhairwith na ordour hes bene tane in tyme bigane, for avoiding of sik inconvenientis and for good ordoure to be tane in tyme cuming, grants to Maister Robert Lowe, our chirurgiane, —with the assistance of Maister Robert Hamilton, Professoure of Medecine, and thair successouris, indwellers of our cite of Glasgowe, full power to call, summond, and convene before thame, within the saide burgh of Glasgowe, or any otheris of our said burrowes or publik places of the foirsaid boundis, all persons professing or using the said airt of chirurgie, to examine thame upon thair literature, knowledge, and practize, gif they be fund wordie,” &c.

NOTE C.—p. 8.

Order by King James VI. to the Parliament, for a Colledge of Physitians there.

JAMES R.

Commissionaris and Estates of Parliament, we greit you heartilie well.

For sa meikle as we are certainlie informet of the gryte abuse done and practised be ane number of ignorant and unskilfull persons, quha without knowledge of the science and facultye of medicine, being nather learned nor gra-

duat therin, presumes at thair awen hand to profess and practice physik and medicine, to the gryt and evident hazarde and danger of the lyffes and healthes of many of our subjects, quhilk evill is becume so ryff and frequent, that the samyne is lyklie to produce gryte harme and detriment except the samyn be tymouslie prevented ; and seeing it perteynes to us, out of our princelie and royall cair, to sie to the guid of that our realme, and to appoint and establish tharin sik convenient and cumlie order, as is observet in this our kingdome of England, and other foreigne nationes, in the like caices : Therefor, it is our will and pleasure, that thair be ane colledge and incorporation of the professors of medicine erected within that our kingdome, consisting of the number of seven persones, of quhom ane sall be elected and chosen yeirlie President and Deane of Facultie ; quhilk seven persones and their successores to be chosen and elected in the places and roomes of the deceissand, sall have the liberties, privileges, and immunities dew to ane Colledge and Incorporation, and sall be capable of all gifts, donationes, legacies, and other commodities to be gifted, disposed, or left to them, be whatsumever persone or persons ; and sall have power to persue and defend in judgment, as ane body and incorporatione, and sall have and enjoy the liberty of meittings and conventiones, all sik tymes as they please, for considering and adviseing upon all things necessar and expedient for the good of the said Faculty and Professors thereof ; and to that effect sall have ane common seill, quhilk sall be callet the seill of the Facultie : And because we are not particularlie informet anent the persones who are fitt to make up the first incorporatione, therfor, it is our will, that ye informe yourselves theirow, and name and appoint seven persons, being Doctors and Professors of Physik and Medicine, of the best skill and estimation among yow, whom ye sall take sworne ; and because the grytest hurt and skaithe done be the saide ignorant persones who presumes but (*without*) warrande to practise

physik, is done and committeit within our burgh of Edinburgh, and countrie thereabout: Thairfor, it is our will that ye declaire and ordaine, that it sall not be lawfull to any persone or persons to presume to exerce and practise the said arte and science of physick and medicine within oure saide towne of Edin^r. or miles about the samyn, except he be tryed be the saide Colledge and Incorporatione, and approven be their testimonial under thair subscription and common seill of the said Facultie: And siclyk, that ye give warrand to the said Colledge and Incorporation to make choise zierlie of three of their number, who sall have the cair and charge, to searche and try the freschness and sufficiencie of all drogges, wares, and medicaments, being within all and whatsumever Apothecaries choppes within our said burgh of Edinburgh; and gif they be found corrupt and insufficient, to destroy the samyne, and that ye sett down penalties against the refusers or contraveners of the said statute: And also that ye resolve and conclude upon sik uther order and remedies quhilk sall be thought fitt or necessar by you for eschewing of the foresaids inconveniences within the rest of the parts of our said Kingdome.

Given at our Manor of Otelandes, the thrid day of Julie 1621.

This conteynes your Majesties warrant to the Commissioners and Estates of Parliament for erecting of a Colledge of Physitianes, and prohibiting wemen and ignorent persons to practise that arte in Scotland.

2 August 1621.

GEORGE HAY.

The Lordis remittis the consideratione of this article and articles given in heirwith, to the consideration of the Lords of Secret Counsell, and whatsoever the saids Lords sall determine and ordain therintill, sall have the force of ane Act of Parliament, and stand in strength quhil it be alterit be sum publict act againe.

NOTE D.—p. 9.

‘Articles for the erection of a Colledge and Incorporation of the Doctors of Medicine within the Kingdome of Scotland, presented in all due submission and humilitie to the Lords of his Majesties Secret Counsell, at their Lordships awin command, be the Graduate Doctors in that Facultie, Inhabitants of the Towne of Edinburghe, and *in the name of all uther Graduate Doctors in the said Facultie within the Kingdome.*

First, It is humblie craved, that there be erected and established within Edinburgh, a Colledge and Incorporation of the Facultie of Medicine, consisting of the Graduate Doctors therof, now ther 20 years or above resident within the said towne of Edinburgh, and publicly professing and practising the same through the kingdome, and of all other Graduate Doctors in that Facultie, within the Realme, (being of the reformed religion, received and publikly professed, within this kingdome,) of them to be made up one Bodie, Communaltie, and Fellowship, to have perpetuall succession in all tymes coming, with liberties, priviledges, and immunities, due to a Colledge and Incorporation, and be capable of all debts, donationes, legacies, and other commodities, to be gifted, disponed, or left to them be whatsoever person or persons, and to have power to conqess lands and heretages, as well within the towne of Edinburgh as without, for the good of the commonwealth of the said Incorporation, and the advancement of the said Facultie; and to persue and defend in judgement as a Body and Incorporation; and to have libertie of meeting and conveening at such time as they please, for consulting, advising, and concluding, making of lawes and constitutiones for the good of the said Colledge and Incorporation, and with power for that effect to have a counsell house within the towne of Edinburgh, Cannongait, or

suburbs, or within a mile theirow, together with a common seale, which shall be called the seale of the Facultie of Medicine, and to chuse yearly their President, Counsellours, and Thesaurer, and all other officers needfull for the services of the said Colledge and Incorporatione; and the foresaid Graduate Doctors now ther many years resident within the said towne of Edinburgh, to be designed, nominat, and expressed be their severall names in the letters patent of this Fundatione, as the first elects and intrants of such a Corporatione.

2d. *Item*, That power be grantit to the foresaid Graduate Doctors of Edinburgh, to associate and incorporat in their societie and fellowship within Edinburgh, to have their residence together with them in the said towne, one or more Physitians heirafter as shall be found requisite; the whole number of the fellowship in Edinburgh in no time coming exceeding (for the better furnishing of the countrey with physitians abroad,) nyne at the most; and of these whensoever any of their roomes, or their successors shall fall to be void by death, the remanent on lyfe to choose and elect one or more, as need be, of the most cunning and expert men and Graduate Doctors in the said Facultie, to supply the vacant roomes of the deceased, and to take them sworne. And if it shall happen at the pleasure of God at any tyme coming, that all these of the societie and fellowship of medicines of Edinburgh be inlaiking through decease, the privileges of the Incorporatione foresaid to stand notwithstanding in force, locally, within the towne of Edinburgh, to all the persons to succeed be new election to be made be the Lords of his Majestie his Secret Counsell; *providing alwayes that the efterward elects be all of the reformed religion, received and publickly professed within this Realme, and Graduate Doctors in that Facultie, either from some famous Universitie abroad, or from the forsaid Colledge and Incorporatione; and failing such, that at the least they be such as has been first duely tryed and examine and licentiate, in*

the said Facultie of the said Colledge, and ther practise in the samen, some reasonable good tyme before generallie approvin, in the boundes of their residence and employment within the kingdome, befor the admission to the Corporatione of the foresaid fellowship of Edinburgh.

3d. That it be statuted and ordained, that the President and Counsellours of the Facultie be always chosen out of the number of the Graduate Doctors of the societie and fellowship of Edinburgh, and that in absence of the President of the Facultie, the eldest Professor of Medicine of the said societie being a Graduate Doctor, be his substitute and Vice-presidente, and in absence of the whole Graduate Doctors, the eldest professor, *simpliciter*.

4th. Because upon all necessities of meeting, the whole number of the Incorporatione cannot always be had, it is therefor humbly craved that, whatsoever sall be concluded and determined by the President or his Vice-President with four counsellors for the tyme, may be declared to be als valid, and of as greate force as if the full number had been presente.

5th. That power be granted to all the particular societies of medicines of the forsaid Incorporation, to appoint yearly, at what time it sall be thought by the said societie most expedient, two Censors of their number, having with them ane Apothiquer of the towne of their residence, to view, try, and examine the sufficiency of all medicaments, drogues, compositiones, waters, oiles, and chymicall preparations, and to report to the said societies, to the end that whatsoever sall be found by them to be either adulterate, or corrupt and carious, may be by them ordeaned to be distroyed and cassed without any hinderance to be made for that effect be any Apothiquer, Drogist, or seller of any of the foresaids, and to fyne the sellers of insufficient droges.

6th. That power be grantit to the said Colledge, with the concurrence of two Apothiquers, whom the said Colledge sall please to nominate, to tax and appretiate, year-

ly, all drogs, medicaments, and compositiones, waters, oiles, and all which be in use to be imployed, and that it be ordered that publik records of the severall taxes and appretiatiounes be made, wherof ane copie sall remaine in the custodie of the said Colledge, and every Apothiquer sall have ane publikly extant in his buith, that the buyers may have knowledge and insight of the prices, and to fyne the exceeders of the said taxes, proportionallie to the quality therof.

7th. That prohibition and defense be made to all the Apothiquers and Droguists, and to all others within the kingdome, to sell any drogues of dangerous quality, as antimony, seammony, arsenic, mercury, sublimat, hellebore, opium, elaterium, or any narcotic, cathartik, or purging medicaments, to any whatsomever, except allenarly either to the Apothiquers, or to the Physitians of the foresaid Incorporation, or Licentiats from the said Colledge, or to such others as has their warrand and ordinance for the same, with power to the said Colledge to fine the delinquents.

8th. That it be statuted and ordained, that no Chyrurgian nor Apothiquer be admitted or receaved Masters in Chyrurgerie or Apothiquarie, nor suffered to profess and practise the saids airts of Chyrurgerie and Apothiquarie, but such as shall be first tryed and examined be the said Colledge in their knowledge and capacitie therein, and found qualified and approven; and the said tryall and examination of the Chirurges to be made be the said Colledge, with concurrence of the Masters and Freemen in Chirurgerie within Edinburgh, and of the Apothiquers, in presence of the Masters, Apothiquers, and Freemen of the said towne for the tyme; and the said Colledge to take them sworne for the faithfull discharge of their whole ducties and service in Chirurgerie and Apothiquerie.

9th. That it be statute and ordeaned, that the tryall and examinatione of the Licenciats, or [those] to be pro-

moted to the degree of Doctorate, be made in the whole Societie and Fellowship of Edinburgh, with liberty to whatsoever other Graduate Doctors of the whole Incorporation through the kingdome, to concurr with them in the said tryall and examinatione, if they please ; but *the promoters to the degree of Doctorate to be only the Graduate Doctors of the Fellowship of Edinburgh*, and these *per vices* the eldest Phisitian of Edinburgh beginning, and so consequently by order.

10th. That it be statute and ordained, that none presume nor take in hand to profess, exercise, or practise physick, within the kingdome, in all tyme comeing, except only the Doctors of the said Colledge and Incorporation, and such as sall be authorised and licentiated upon due tryall and examination premitted by the said Colledge, and receave letters testimoniall of their license from the said Colledge, under their subscriptiones and common seall.

11th. That it be statute and ordeaned, that the Phisicians only of the said Societie and Fellowship of Edinburgh, have power within the said towne of Edinb^r. and twenty-four miles round about, to profess, teach, practise, and exercise the said Faculty of Medicine fullie, in all the parts and members thereof, and that none other presume or take in hand to profess or practise the samine, ordean prescripts, or recipies, within the said towne and precinct forsaid, but they only of the said Society and Fellowship of Medicines of Edin^r., but (*without*) prejudice always to whatsoever other Graduate Doctors within the kingdome, of the Incorporatione to be called and admitted, at the desyre of the patients, to consultations withe the Physitians of the said Fellowship, within the said towne and bounds foresaid.

12th. And because there are manic abusers and ignorant persons, never trained up nather in Medicine nor good Literature, who assumes to themselves the style of Doctors of Medicine, whereby they not onlie disgrace the

worthie professors thereof, but deceaves also the lieges by so specious a title, to their great hurt, perill, and ruine ; therfor it is humbly craved, that it be statute and ordeained, that none presume to arrogate or admitt, in all tyme comeing, the title of and qualitie of Doctor of Medicine, except he be such indead, and have receaved the degrees of Doctorate in that Facultie in some famous University abroad, or else from the foresaid Colledge and Incorporation of this kingdome ; and for this effect, that it be ordeaned that all the present Graduate Doctors within the kingdome, within half a-year after the publication heirof, as they sall have opportunity, and all new Graduate Doctors heirafter in all tyme comming, befor their publik practise in the kingdome, repair to the towne of Edinburgh, and their notifie unto the Societie and Fellowship therof their degrees of Doctorate in that Facultie, be their programe, and theses publikly sustained and disputed, and letters testimoniall under the common seal of the Universitie wher they receaved the saidis degrees and dignity, and so to matriculate themselves in the said towne of Edinburgh, with the forsaid Colledge and Incorporation, as members therof.

13th. That it be statute and ordeaned, that no Chirurgeon within Edinburgh and bounds foresaid take blood of any person, or undertake the cure of any aposteme, ulcer, fracture, or wounde, or any other thing requiring Chirurgical operatione, which may be deadlie, or dangerous for the life of the deseased or wounded person, (such as are the woundes of the head, stomach, diaphragme, bellie, bladder, lightes, and liver or great vessels,) without the advise and counsell of one of the said Societie of Edin^r. except in case of present necessity ; and that no deposition be given up to any Judge whatsoever be Chirurgians anent any wounded person, or the quality of the wounde or woundes, but at the sighting, and under the hand, and subscriptione, and forme, of the Doctors of the said Societie, together with the Masters in Chirurgerie of the

said towne, and the contraveeners to be fyned by the said Colledge.

14th. Item. It is humbly craved that power be granted to the said Colledge and Incorporatione, to cause, warne, and summonde, by their officer, and under their common scale, in the King's Ma. his name and authoritie, and the Lords of his Ma. Secreit Counsell, whatsoever delinquent against the lawes and constitutiones of the said Colledge, and the Societie of the Phisitians of Edinburgh, to compeare befor them, and being convict, to fyne them, to the behalfe of the saide Incorporatione, and to poinde, warde, and imprisone, at the discretione of the said Colledge and Societie of the Medicines of Edinburgh forsaide, and to take them sworne, that they transgress no more in that kinde, under double paine, and that command be given to all Proveists and Bailies in tyme comeing, and to all Justices and Shirifes, and to other his Majestie's officers within this realme, that upon the warrande and common seale of the said Colledge they assist to the putting of the said acts in executione, upon paine for not giving their help and assistance to runne in contempt of his Highness lawes and authoritie ; and to all keepers of wardes and prissons, that they accept and receave in their wardes and prissons all and every such persone or persones so offending as sall be committed to them from the said Colledge or Societie of Edinburghe, and they sall surelie keep and retaine the said persons so committed into their prissons, upon the propper cost and charges of the said person or persons incarcerat, till such tyme that, by paying their fyne, or fynding caution, they be reliesed upon the warrande and common seale of the said Colledge, under paine of paying to the Colledge the double of the fyne that the saids persons committed are fyned into.

15th. Item. It is humbly craved that exemption be granted to all the Graduate Doctors of the said Incorporatione from all burding and taxatione, and beareings of armes in all tyme comeing, and that they be declared to

be holden amongst the number of priviledged persones, *a legibus sumptuariis*, to enjoy the annuities and priviledges granted to such persones be the Acts of Parliament, as in all civill kingdomes.

16th. That reservation be expressly made to be farther humblie petitioned be the said Incorporatione upon all other good and expedient meanes which may further and promove the said Facultie of Medicine within this kingdome, as tyme, and the experience, and the happie successe of so good a constitutione may affoorde.

17th. Finallie, it is humbly craved that these articles foresaide be declaired to have in all tyme coming the full force, power, and strengthe of ane Act of Parliament, conforme to ane Act of reference in the last Parliament 1621, and be ordeaned to be ratified and confirmed in the next insuing Parliament, in all and every grant and article, and be clearlie authorised and admitted by the same, as tending to the good and well of the kingdome, and the advancement of the said Facultie, and avallable to the said body corporate, and their successors for ever, in als ample and large maner as may be, and that incontinente after the passing of thir presentes they be oppenly proclaimed at the Mercate Crosses within this realme, and be printed by the King's Majestie's printer, to the effect that none pretend ignorance."

NOTE E.—p. 10.

The application for a patent at this time was founded on a recital of "the publik abuses in maitters of medicine," drawn up chiefly by Dr. Purvess, but having the names of seventeen other Physicians subscribed to it.

The abuses are described under the following heads:—

"1st. The frequent murders committed universallie in all parts of this kingdome by quacks, women, gardiners, and others grossly ignorent.

2d. The unlimited and unaccountable practises of Chi-

rurgions, Apothicaries, and Empericks, pretending medicines, not only in places destitute of Physitians, but in the eminentest cities of the natione, all these undertaking the cure of all diseases without advice or assistance of Physitians.

3d. The unwarrantable vending of drugs, simple and compound, by Drugists and Apothicaries, (not only in common sale, but in the dispensing Physitian's receipts,) and these generally carious, sophisticated, and every way corrupted, and of this the most deadly poisons, without security taken from the buyer, or any other restraint, as is found by the great difference in medicines, in their operatione, here from what is found abroad.

4th. The exorbitant prices of drugs, by which the lieges are much exacted.

5th. The great abuse lately established in Edinburgh, and other cities, by ingrossing promiscuously these two trades into one incorporatione, whence many not bred in thes airts sett up, to the greate prejudice of the patient and discredit of the Physitians.

6th. The great charges and difficulties Students of medicine ar putt to in travelling abroad for educatione and degrees in the science of medicine, and the disadvantage and discredit Universities suffer in being deprived of their priviledge.

7th. The great losse Physitians are at in not improving their learning by Professors.

8th. The advantages would accrue to all the nation, if, as other well-governed countries, they had such settlements of privileidges for Physitians here, and literature would, to the nation's honour, advance."

SIBBALD'S *Memoires of the College of Physitians, a MS. in the Advocates' Library.*

NOTE F.—p. 10.

On the Exorbitant Charges for Medicines.

“ The great gains they have formerly made has so increased their number, (the Apothecaries,) that to make them all live there must be a strange extortioning of the lieges ; so that 'tis no extraordinary thing to charge *half-a-crown* for a *mercurial bolus*, not worth three half-pennies ; a *crown* for ane *emulsion*, not worth a groat ; *forty-pence*, or *four shillings sterling*, for a drop weight of *Jesuits' powder*, and that to be repeated once in two hours ; thus, in an account—2700 *pounds Scots*, (*L.225 sterling*,) for *decoction of Sarsa*, and *L.3 sterling* for a *pint of Lower's bitter* tincture, have been charged and payed ; *L.20 sterling* for a course of *mercury* ; 1200 *merks* (*L.66, 13s. 4d. sterling*) for a clap. And if any of these matters of fact be contraverted, chapter and leaf shall be cited.”

An Historical Account of the Rights and Priviledges of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. (Supposed to be by Dr. ECCLES.) Edin. 1707.

NOTE G.—p. 11.

Extract from the Draft of a Patent for the Erection of “ a Societie and Colledge of Physitians within the City of Edinburgh,” (in 1656.)

“ A Societie and Colledge of Physitians shall be erected within the city of Edinburgh, which shall consist of a President and Fellowes, under the name of the President and Colledge of Physitians of *Scotland*, * * * who shall have power and authoritie to oversie, rule, and order, what may concerne the right administratiounc of Physike to the

people of Scotland, in all pairts and places of the said nation, with power to them to censure and punish all persons who shall presume to practise, exercise, or profess physike, or give medicines, or ordaine physicall præscriptions in any part or place in Scotland, being not members of the said Colledge, or not being approved and licensed by the said President and Colledge under the common seall.

The President and Colledge, and thair successors, and all others who sall be, from tyme to tyme, licensed by the said President and Colledge as aforesaid, shall, and may, from tyme to tyme, practise and exercise the art of Chirurgery, (for as much as the science of physick doth comprehend, include, and containe in it the knowledge of Chirurgery, being a speciall part of the same, and member thereof,) in all pointes, and throughout Scotland, save only within the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, wher the said President and Colledge, and their successors, shall have no farther power as to the exercise of Chirurgerie, then what they, as Graduate Physitians, lawfully had, or might have had, before the date of these presents.

And no person whatsoever shall heirafter presume to keep ane Apothecarie's shop, or profess the art or trade of ane Apothecary in any part of Scotland, but such only as sall be first tryed, examined, and approved by the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, and by the Masters Apothecaries in the respective cities and burghs of their abode, and therupon approved of by the said President and Colledge, and being so tryed and approved of, shall be, from tyme to tyme, answerable to the Censors to be appointed by the President and Colledge aforesaid for the tyme being, in their severall places of residence, for the sufficiencie of their simples and compoundes, imployable for the use of the people ther, which Censors respectively sall call to their assistance at every such inspection and inquiry, one or two of the ablest Apothecaries residing in or near the respective places of

the abode off such persons wher such search and inquirie sall be made ; and that if upon any such search and inquiry the physicall drugs of such Apothecaries sall be adjudged not to be sufficient and warrantable, then the same sall be cast out and burnt, and the party so offending sall be fyned at the good discretion of the magistrate of the place where the offence is committed ; provided alwayes, that when any Apothicarie is to sett up his trade of Apothecarie within Edinburgh, or any other citie or burgh of Scotland, the magistrates of the said citie and burgh sall have notice therof from the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, that if they so please they may be present at the examinatione and admission of such Apothicaries, to exercise their said trade of Apothicarie. And it is to be provided that the magistrates of the severall cities and burghs, and the sherifs of the respective counties in Scotland, sall and may be empowered, at their discretion, from tyme to tyme, to give to the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, or their assignayes sufficiently authorised in that behalf, under their common seall, such dead bodies of malefactors executed, as they shall desyre, for making of dissection and anatomie for the use of the Colledge.”

NOTE H.—pp. 21, 22.

On the Origin of the Royal Infirmary.

Among the earliest, most zealous, and most effective friends of this Institution, the name of George Drummond stands conspicuous. To perpetuate his memory, and to mark the gratitude of the Managers for his active and generous exertions in commencing and forwarding this good work, they procured a marble bust of him, which is placed in the entrance-hall of the building, having this inscription underneath it,—

“ George Drummond, to whom this country is indebted for all the benefit which it derives from the Royal Infirmary.”

Now, although a large, a principal share of the merit of founding and establishing the Royal Infirmary is indisputably connected with the name of this most worthy and public-spirited citizen, the language of the inscription ascribes the merit too exclusively to him. The scheme commenced with, and was for some time carried on entirely by, the College of Physicians, as will appear from the following extracts :—

“ In the year 1725, the Royal College of Physicians, who had long given gratuitous advice and medicines to the sick-poor at their Hall, being thus well acquainted with their miserable state, undertook to obtain subscriptions for such a fund, (for erecting an hospital) ; and as a good example to others, were the first subscribers, and engaged to attend the Infirmary regularly in their turns,—without fee or reward.”

“ The subscription of L.2000 was no sooner completed than the College of Physicians called the contributors together,” &c.

History of the Royal Infirmary, printed for the Institution in 1778, p. 7.

From the Minutes of the College of Physicians the following extracts are made :—

“ 1st of February, 1726. The President represented to the College, that, according to their desire, he and several of the members had set on foot a subscription for erecting and maintaining an hospital or infirmary for the sick-poor, and had pretty good success; and recommended to all the members of the College to use their best endeavours to procure more subscriptions for accomplishing so good and charitable a work.”

“ 7th May, 1728. The College thinking it proper that

application should be made to the General Assembly for their assistance in procuring contributions for the Infirmary, and an address for that purpose being read, the College appointed Drs. Rule, Riddell, and Innes, to attend the Committee of Bills thereanent," &c.

" *7th of February, 1729.* The President reported, that, conform to the resolution of last Meeting, circular letters had been sent to all the Presbyteries," &c.

As an acknowledgment of the just claim of the College of Physicians, the charter provides, that of the twenty persons in whom the direction and management are vested, five, at the least, should be Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians.

The next document is an extract from a letter to the President and other members of the College, from the Lord Provost, as Preses, and in name of, the general meeting of the Contributors, dated 4th February, 1751 :—

" * * It appearing, by the present state of the funds thereof, (the Royal Infirmary,) and the well-grounded hopes which the Managers have of considerable future benefactions, that there will be room to take in still a much greater number of distressed objects, by which the trouble and attendance of the Members of the Royal College, *who had the honour to give a beginning to this useful undertaking*, and who have hitherto very generously given their assistance and advice gratis, is likely to be so much increased that the Managers have thought it their duty to provide a remedy for the same, by appointing two fixed Physicians for the constant and daily attendance on the patients in the Royal Infirmary, under the character of the *Physicians in ordinary* thereto: That by an order of the General Court of the Corporation, empowering the Managers to name these Physicians, they are appointed accordingly; and the measure is to take place on the 24th of June next. That he was commanded by the General Court of the Corporation to communicate this to the College, and in their name to return their humble and hearty

thanks for the great pains the College have taken in nursing this child of their own, from its earliest appearance till now, and earnestly to request the Royal College to continue their good offices to the undertaking," &c.

The history of the early connexion between the Infirmary and the College of Physicians is more fully detailed in a pamphlet, published in 1737, entitled, "A Vindication of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary," and evidently written by one of themselves. It says,—

"The Royal College not only thus began the good work, but continued to manage the whole affairs of the infant Society. * * * They applied for, and obtained from, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a recommendation for a public contribution; they also applied to the Episcopal clergy and their congregations, and got their contributions; they also obtained from the ladies of the Assembly their donations," &c., p. 5.

"In considering the plan for carrying on the Infirmary, one difficulty only occurred, viz., how it should be served in Surgery and Pharmacy. It was thought unnecessary to apply to the Corporation of Surgeons, because of their formerly declining to be concerned when applied to by the College of Physicians."

In this emergency, Mr. Alexander Munro, Surgeon and Professor of Anatomy, who had from the first taken a most lively interest in the establishment of the institution, came forward in a very generous manner, and removed the difficulty, by offering "to serve gratis in Surgery, and to furnish all medicines at prime cost," which was accepted; and he was declared Surgeon and Apothecary to the Infirmary. The Corporation of Surgeons hereupon made a proposal, which, however, it was not thought expedient to accept, namely, that the Corporation should attend the Infirmary by turns, and that for two years they would supply medicines gratis. To facilitate any arrangement that might be considered desirable, Mr. Monro renounced his appointment as Surgeon. But after

much negotiation he was reappointed, together with five other Surgeons, who all agreed "to serve the Infirmary in Surgery and Pharmacy gratis, till the patients should exceed a certain number." This was in July 1729.

In the beginning of 1736 a new Hospital for the Sick-poor was projected by the Surgeons, and on 1st February, 1737, a memorial was laid before the College of Physicians, from the Corporation of Surgeons, requesting its co-operation in conducting a new Surgical Hospital which they had opened. The answer of the Physicians expressed their readiness to give their assistance in any particular case in which it might be required. This Hospital, if ever opened, seems to have been given up almost immediately.

NOTE I.—p. 22.

It may seem irreconcilable with the assertion in the text, that twenty years before, (in 1685,) three Professors of Medicine, Sir Robert Sibbald, Dr. Pitcairn, and Dr. Halket, had been appointed by the Town-Council; but I cannot find that they had any thing more than a nominal connexion with the University. Their names do not appear in the list of persons constituting the *Senatus Academicus* at the opening of the eighteenth century, as given by Bower; and there is reason to believe that not one of them ever delivered lectures, or gave any instructions in the University. Sir Robert Sibbald did, indeed, propose to give instructions in Natural History and Medicine, but it was at his own house, in Carrubber's Close, and rather tutorially than professionally, as we may infer from the following advertisement, which appeared in the Edinburgh Courant, 14th of February, 1706.

"Quod patriæ charissimæ, et in ea Philiatris,
felix faustumque sit.

"Robertus Sibbaldus, M.D., Eques auratus, Deo auspice,

Historiam Naturalem, et Artem Medicam, quam Dei gratiâ per annos XLIII. feliciter exercuit, docere in *privatis collegiis* incipiet, mensibus vernalibus hujus anni, MDCCVI.

“Monendos autem censet juvenes harum rerum curiosos, se non alios in Album suum conscripturum, quam qui callent linguas Latinam et Græcam, omnem Philosophiam et Matheseos fundamenta, quod chirographis preceptorum testatum vult.”

Dr. Pitcairn, in a few years after his appointment to be a Professor, or rather after receiving the title of Professor, received an invitation to become Professor of Medicine in the University of Leyden, which he accepted, but he held the appointment only about twelve months. Shortly after his return to Edinburgh he took some steps with a view to commencing here a course of instruction in medicine, and for this purpose engaged the co-operation of Mr. Alexander Monteith, a member of the Corporation of Surgeons, who had already delivered lectures on Chemistry and Materia Medica in the Hall of that incorporation. A petition was presented, in Mr. Monteith's name, to the Town-Council, for liberty to open the bodies of those poor persons who died in Paul's-work,—a kind of poors'-house. The prayer of the petition was granted. The Surgeons, from what cause does not appear, did not approve of this design, and from their superior interest with the Council, virtually defeated it, and commenced themselves to give instructions in Anatomy. The design was in consequence relinquished by Dr. Pitcairn. No evidence can be discovered that Dr. Halket ever lectured, or intended to lecture.

NOTE K.—p. 24.

Dr. Alexander Monro, *primus*.—It will be observed that the assertion in the text has reference to a *regular course* of Anatomical Lectures and Demonstrations, and it rests

upon Dr. Monro's own declaration in the narrative of a petition presented by him to the Town-Council, of which the following is an extract:—

“ The present Professor is allowed to have been diligent, and to have contributed to the establishment of the Medical Schools, (of this city) being *the first who began to teach regularly*, and has continued to do so for thirty-five years,” &c.

Extract from the *Council Register*, 19th June, 1784,
quoted by BOWER, vol. ii. p. 370.

In the MS. (autograph) life of Dr. Monro, in the possession of his grandson, from which the sketch in Bower's history is partly taken, it is said that he “ attended,” as a part of his early professional education, “ the demonstration of the pharmaceutical plants exhibited every year by Mr. George Preston ; a course of chemistry which Dr. James Craufurd *sometimes* gave ; and the dissection of a human body which was shewed *once in two or three years*, by Mr. Robert Elliott, and afterwards by Messrs. Adam Drummond and John Macgill, surgeon-apothecaries.” These are evidently referred to by Mr. Monro as the only means of medical instruction which Edinburgh at that time afforded. With this the following testimony, not indeed of a contemporary, agrees.

In the sketch of the life of Dr. Monro, *primus*, by Dr. Duncan, who was his pupil, and who was intimately acquainted for many years, and a fellow-professor, with his son, it is stated, that “ he had for his first teacher, an intelligent and affectionate parent. But at Edinburgh other opportunities of improvement in medical science were then wanting. For, at that time, even the name of a medical school had not here an existence. There were indeed *titular* professors, but there were *no teachers*. The dissection of a human body was shewn only occasionally, and in a superficial manner.” And at p. 15, it is said, “ in the year 1720, he began the *first regular course* of anatomical and

chirurgical lectures and demonstrations, which was ever delivered in this city."

NOTE L.—p. 24.

On the Origin of the Medical School in Edinburgh.

Bower, in his History of the University, says, "A school for instruction in Botany, was the first of the medical classes which may be said to have been founded in Edinburgh." The honour of this, as mentioned, p. 15, belongs chiefly to Sir Andrew Balfour, assisted by Sir Robert Sibbald. The garden formed by them was chiefly devoted at first to the cultivation of medicinal plants, under the superintendence of James Sutherland, who had been a common gardener, but must have been a man of genius and of considerable acquirements, not only in this particular department, but also in civil history, and in antiquarian knowledge. The valuable collection of Greek, Roman, Scottish, Saxon, and English coins and medals which he had formed, was purchased by the Faculty of Advocates, and is still in their possession.

Sutherland was appointed superintendent of the garden in 1676, and published the "*Hortus Medicus Edinburgensis*," in 1683, and died in 1706.

I have somewhere, but cannot now remember where, seen a reference to an advertisement of Sutherland's in 1702, in which he announced his readiness to give instruction at the garden in the knowledge of medicinal plants.

Dr. Charles Preston was elected his successor as superintendent, and also Professor of Botany, in May 1706. He likewise seems to have given instructions "*in privatis Collegiis*," as may be inferred from an advertisement in the Edinburgh Courant, May 16, 1707.

"Dr. Preston teaches his lessons of Botany in the Physick Garden at Edinburgh, the months of May, June, July, and August, 1707. Therefore all gentlemen and

others, who are desirous to learn the said science of Botany, may repair to the said garden, where attendance will be given."

On the death of Dr. Preston in 1712, Mr. George Preston, an Apothecary, who seems to have been little qualified for it, was appointed to the situation. To him succeeded Dr. Alston, who was made Professor of Botany and *Materia Medica* in 1738, on both of which subjects he delivered regular courses of lectures with equal honour to himself and benefit to the University.

In 1713, the Chemical Chair was founded in the University, and Dr. Crawford appointed Professor, and also Professor of Medicine.

Mr. Elliott, a Surgeon-apothecary, who was the "public dissector of Anatomy to the Corporation to which he belonged, was the first Professor of Anatomy in the University, being appointed in 1705, but he is supposed not to have given any public instructions in the University, nor indeed anywhere else, but merely a public demonstration now and then, as he could obtain a subject for the purpose." In 1714 Mr. Elliott died, and was succeeded in his professorship by Mr. Adam Drummond, who "being in very extensive practice as a surgeon, was desirous to have an associate in the professorship, who might undertake the more laborious part of the duty, when an opportunity presented itself of exhibiting a public dissection." Mr. John Macgill was therefore associated with him. In the beginning of 1720, these conjunct professors demitted their office, and recommended Mr. Alexander Monro as their successor, and he was accordingly elected by the Town-Council Professor of Anatomy in the University, to hold the office during the pleasure of the patrons. From the zeal and ability with which he discharged the duties of his office, the patrons were induced to make the appointment a permanent one, which it has always been from that time. Mr. Monro immediately began to deliver

lectures, and to give demonstrations on bodies, of which he procured a regular supply from London.

Dr. Porterfield was appointed Professor of Medicine in 1724; and in 1726, Drs. Rutherford and St. Clair were made joint Professors of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Drs. Plummer and Innes, joint Professors of Medicine and Chemistry, and Dr. Gibson of Midwifery. So that now the Medical School was considered to be fully established, and the means of instruction nearly complete.

N.B.—This account is taken chiefly from Bower's History of the University.

NOTE M.—p. 25.

Great as has been the improvement that has taken place in many of the large towns of the empire, in no place has this been more remarkable as to its general aspect, and its condition in point of salubrity, comfort, and elegance, and also as to the character and manners of its inhabitants, than in Edinburgh.

Of its present condition it is unnecessary to say any thing. It is such, that we find it difficult to credit the descriptions given of its former state, when, in a greater degree than now, it was the resort, and at least the temporary residence, of the Scottish nobility. An intelligent and apparently candid traveller of the period referred to in the text, gives a disgusting account of a barbarous and filthy custom, which was of itself almost sufficient to produce a pestilence. He says, "I was invited to sup at a tavern. The cook was too filthy an object to be described. When the clock struck ten, every body is at liberty, by beat of the city drum, to throw their filth out at the windows. The company then began to light pieces of paper, and throw them upon the table to smoke the room, and, as I thought, to mix one bad smell with another.

"Having in my retreat to pass through a long narrow *wynde* or alley to go to my new lodging, a guide was as-

signed me, who went before me to prevent any disgrace, crying out all the way with a loud voice, '*Hud your haunde.*' The throwing up of a sash, or otherwise opening a window, made me tremble, while behind and before me, at but little distance, fell the terrible shower.

"Well, I escaped all the danger, and arrived not only safe and sound, but sweet and clean, at my new quarters. But when I was in bed I was forced to hide my head between the sheets ; for the smell of the filth, thrown out by the neighbours on the back side of the house, came rushing into the room to such a degree, I was almost poisoned with the stench."—CAPTAIN BURT'S *Letters from Scotland*, vol. i., p. 18.

The offensive custom here alluded to, had indeed been condemned and forbidden by an act of the Town-Council some years before (in 1714,) but long continuance seems to have so completely reconciled both magistrates and people to it, that it was not, until threatened with the visitation of the Plague, that any effectual means were taken to put an end to the disgraceful practice. The condemnatory proclamation issued by the Council, a placard of which is now before me, may be taken as no doubtful specimen of the delicacy and refinement of the day. As a remedy for the evil, "The Magistrates and Council do command and require each family within this city, Canon-gate, Leith, and other suburbs thereof, to provide sufficient vessels in their houses, for holding their excrement and foul water, at least for 48 hours ; and prohibits and discharges any kind of filth to be casten out of doors, and any filth in chamber pots, or water, to be casten over the windows, either back or fore of any house, under pain of four shillings Scots, &c. And further, that the servant offender, for the second fault, shall stand in the pillory betwixt ten and twelve o'clock in the forenoon of that day she is apprehended, or the next day thereafter ; and for the third fault she shall be whipped by the hand of the hangman, and banished the city."

From the proceedings of the same right worshipful body, at a somewhat earlier period, namely, in the middle of the preceding century, we get some knowledge of the dress and manners of the ladies of that period. With a presumption equal to, and folly greater than, that of the Emperor Caracalla, who issued an edict forbidding that any one should wear an amulet about his person, these self-important “bailie-buddies,” “dressed in a little brief authority,” constituted themselves a committee of taste; and took upon themselves to regulate the female dress. In 1631, an Act of Council was passed, forbidding all women to wear their plaids over their heads or faces. This piece of magisterial presumption being only laughed at, the civic oligarchs were very wrathful, and issued a public notice, in which they said, “But little regard being had to that act by persons of distinction,” the Council “injoin all women, of what quality soever, *not to wear a plaid* under a penalty of *corporal punishment*, and forfeiture of the plaid to be taken and disposed of by any person as their own property.” Even these fearful denunciations proving insufficient to deter from the commission of this so awful crime, a proclamation was sent forth in 1637, from which the following is extracted:—“Forasmeikle as notwithstanding of divers and sundry *laudabill* actes and statutes maid by the Proveist, Baillies, and Counsall of this burgh in former tymes, discharging that barbarous and uncivill habitte of women’s wearing of plaids; zit such hes been the impudence of manie of them, that they have continewit the foresaid barbarous habitte, and hes added thairto the wearing of their gownes and petticottes about their heads and faces, so that the same is now become the ordinar habitte of all women within the cittie, to the general imputation of their sex, matrones not being abell to be discerned from strumpettis and lowse living women, to thair awne dishonour and scandal of the cittie, which the Proveist, Baillies, and Counsall have taken into their serious consideration; thairfore have statute and

ordaynit, and by thir presentis statutis and ordaynes, that none, of whatsoever degree or quality, presume, after this day, under the payne of escheitt of the said plaids, not onlie be such as shall be appoyntit for that effect, but be all persones who sall challenge the same.

“ And that nae women weir their gownes or petticottes about their heads and faces, under the payne of ten pundis, to be payit by women of qualitie for the first falt, twenty pundis for the second, and under such farther paines as sall pleas the counsall to inflict upon them for the third falt. And under the payne of fourtie shilling, to be payit be servandis and utheris of lower degrie, for the first falt, five pundis for the second, and banishment from the cittie for the third falt ; and ordaynes this present statutt to be intimate throwgh this burgh be sound of drum, that none pretend ignorance hereof.”—*Council Register*, vol. xv.

See MAITLAND's *History of Edinburgh*,
pp. 64, 70, & 87.

